

NC Employees Workplace Program Requirements for

Safety and Health

Housekeeping at Construction Sites

Scope

Construction sites can present many hazards to employees when they are performing construction-related activities. Keeping a construction site relatively clean of debris can further reduce hazards. The benefits of good housekeeping far exceed the small additional effort required to establish good housekeeping practices at a construction site.

Requirement

It is the requirement of the state to provide a place of employment that is free from recognized hazards that cause or are likely to cause death and serious physical harm to employees or the public. Therefore, all employees on construction sites will practice good housekeeping to further reduce hazards to employees. When construction hazards exist that cannot be eliminated, then engineering practices, administrative practices, safe work practices, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and proper training regarding housekeeping will be implemented. These measures will be implemented to minimize those hazards to ensure the safety of employees and the public.

Reference

This safety requirement and procedure is established in accordance with Occupational Safety and Health Standards for Construction Industry ([29 CFR 1926.25](#)).

Definitions

Debris: Unusable or unwanted construction waste material

Form Lumber: Lumber that is used to contain liquid concrete into defined shapes until the concrete hardens.

Hazardous Waste: Waste that is either toxic to humans or to the environment

General Provisions

This section details the provisions of this safety requirement and procedure with each provision discussed in a separate subsection. These provisions are:

- Training
- Construction Scrap and Debris
- Construction Waste Disposal

Training

Employees will be trained to work safely on construction sites by following good housekeeping practices. Employees will be trained in:

- The importance of housekeeping
- The benefits of housekeeping

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Employees will be trained at time of initial employment or assignment.

Construction Scrap and Debris

Scrap material and debris generated during construction usually consist of:

- Non-combustible scrap material and debris
- Combustible scrap material and debris

Non-combustible scrap material and debris that consist of form and scrap lumber with protruding nails, and all other debris, must be kept cleared from work areas, passageways, and stairs, and from around buildings or other structures.

Nails should be removed from used lumber before stacking. Combustible scrap and debris must be removed at regular intervals during the course of construction without increasing the hazard exposure to employees who remove such debris. See [29 CFR 1910.141](#), Sanitation, for related information on construction sites.

Construction Waste Disposal

All construction waste must first be collected into containers before disposal. The categories of construction waste generated at a construction site include:

- General waste and trash (non-toxic, non-hazardous)
- Hazardous waste

Separate containers must be provided for the collection and separation of waste, trash, and other refuse.

Additional separate containers must be provided with lids for hazardous wastes to prevent sparks or other ignition sources from coming into contact with hazardous waste. Hazardous wastes can include used oil, used oil filters, oily rags and flammable wastes as well as caustics, acids, harmful dusts, etc.

Absorbent that is used to collect incidental used oil spills and oily rags can be disposed of in waste collection dumpsters. Used oil filters must be drained of oil before they can be disposed into separate waste containers.

Construction Sites: _____

Location: _____

Division/Unit: _____

Date: _____

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Yes No

- | | | |
|-------|-------|--|
| _____ | _____ | Are protruding nails, form and scrap lumber, and other debris kept clear from work areas, passageways, and stairs in and around buildings or other structures? |
| _____ | _____ | Are combustible scrap and debris being removed at regular intervals during the course of construction? |
| _____ | _____ | Are containers being provided for the collection and separation of waste and trash? |
| _____ | _____ | Do the containers for the hazardous wastes (oily rags and flammable wastes such as caustics, acids, harmful dusts, etc.) have lids? |